

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9733

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 5570

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GR

SUBJ: GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES ISSUES: LANDE VISIT

REF STATE 168084, 163658

1. ASSISTANT STR STEPHEN LANDE MET IN ATHENS, JULY 21 WITH INTER-AGENCY GROUP OF GOG OFFICIALS LED BY ANDREOPOULOS, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. GOG OFFICIALS HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THEIR STATEMENTS REGARDING GSP MADE IN GATT, UNCTAD, AND OECD HAVE ALREADY INDICATED TO USG THEIR INTEREST IN QUALIFYING, AND THEY APPEARED SURPRISED TO LEARN OF NECESSITY FOR SPECIFICALLY REQUESTING GSP AND SUPPORTING THIS REQUEST WITH DETAILS SHOWING THAT U.S. EXPORTS TO GREECE WILL NOT SUFFER BECAUSE OF GREECE'S PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EC. IN CONTRAST, THEY APPEARED TO BELIEVE THAT GREECE IS ENTITLED TO GSP UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW BY VIRTUE OF GATT WAIVER. DISCUSSION SERVED TO MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLEAR TO GOG OFFICIALS THAT DETAILED ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION

WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THEIR REQUEST.

2. AMONG THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS FACING GREEK APPLICATION ARE:

- A) INABILITY OF GOG UNDER EC AGREEMENT TO PUT MFN TARIFF BELOW CXT TARIFF.
- B) NECESSITY OF GOG TO CONSULT WITH EC ON OTHER FORMS OF COMPENSATION FOR ADVERSE TRADE EFFECTS ON US.
- C) PACE AT WHICH GREECE MOVING TO FULL VOTING MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC.

3. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, QUESTION AROSE AS TO WHETHER MOROCCO AND TUNISIA GRANT PREFERENCES TO EC UNDER TERMS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE EC. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S INTERPRETATION OF THESE AGREEMENTS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOG.

4. LANDE STRESSED THROUGHOUT THAT U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF DISCOURAGING GREECE'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE EC, AND THAT GOG MUST DECIDE FOR ITSELF WHETHER BENEFITS TO GREECE UNDER GSP CAN BE RECONCILED WITH GREECE'S INTEREST IN ACCELERATED EC MEMBERSHIP.

5. BY END OF DISCUSSION, GOG OFFICIALS WERE AWARE OF NATURE OF PROBLEM AND JANUARY 1, 1976 DEADLINE FOR GIVING ASSURANCES THAT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT GIVEN EC IMPORTS EITHER DOES NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECTS ON US EXPORTS TO GREECE, OR, IF THEY DO, THAT SUCH PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT WILL BE ELIMINATED OR OTHERWISE COMPENSATED FOR. GOG IS NOW EXAMINING DATA TO DETERMINE NEXT STEPS, AND HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO CONTINUE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. KUBISCH

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